200th Celebration Edition

(Volume 200)
PART #1

2025

Photo History

It's hard to believe that when I started collating these Photo History volumes, it would become such a big part of my life ("and how! ") ..I can hear Lynn sighing in exasperation)

I have had an interest in photography from a very early age and gradually filled 70 albums with 'the usual' shots of holidays etc. Then along came digital photography which seemed to me such a great leap forward. No more expensive films, no more waiting at the chemist for them to be returned (why the chemist??) . Suddenly I could add text to the photos and print them myself on photo paper and bind each batch into spirally bound books. I could now add my thoughts, personal together with my comment on life around me. The books were really intended for our old age so we could look back on life 'as it was' but the volumes seem to have taken on a life of their own. Happily, I see the children and even the grandchildren looking at them and friends (who are often too polite to refuse) seem to enjoy them. I see them as a modern day Samuel Pepys Diary. They are full of life as it was at the time and some things stand out: the day the London Eye was lifted to its vertical position on the Thames...the one day they 'grassed over' Trafalgar Square...the day before they opened the Elizabeth Line where Lynn managed to get us entry to the station. The dancing & greeting we received in Sikles, high in the Himalayas when we trekked to the school there with money and books from our wonderful friends...the tree planting from its early inception along the Enfield Chase..this and photos of rusty cars, seats taped up during Covid...family and friends sharing happy moments over a long life together all combine in , what I feel is, a unique personal way.

When I was very young I did a photographic course at Barnet College, learning darkroom techniques etc (all of which have now become redundant.) The one thing I took away with me was the young lecturer saying "If we depart this world without leaving a record of our life...it is as if we haven't lived" - well these volumes are my interpretation of her words.

Anyway, enough of my ramblings but many folk have asked "why" and "what will happen to them when you depart this world?". My usual answer is " I am sure you will see the bonfire from the other side of town". But to remain immortal, I have taken the precaution of downloading them to www. Internet.org so people can be bored rigid for many years to come.

For contributions for this special volume..the 200th., I asked friends, acquaintances, family etc the following

12/10/25 Hi there. Hope you are all well.

I have a big ask…(***no…it's not a donation or similar****.)*

As most of you know, I can (and do) ***Bore for Britain*** with my photographs etc but I am now on Volume 198 of my Photo History Volumes and I hope you will help me with the 200th Celebration Edition. (I have included a link below to the 150th to remind you of what it is like)

All I would like from you is one A4 page (email it over or post...whatever is easier- just put your name in the corner)

It can be a doodle, a poem, a work of art, holiday photos, serious or humorous…absolutely anything at all.....(even a page assisted by AI would be ok)

Lynn and I have made so many friends of all ages, creeds, backgrounds, shapes and sizes during our 80 (plus) years and now this is our special way of sharing and showing how much we value your unique friendships.

Please remember, this is about YOU not about me.

Please don't say *" no idea what he wants…let me think about it, I'll put it in the 'to do' pile"* and then promptly forget it.

Can I please ask you to send it across as soon as possible because it takes quite a while to compile the volumes..

All my fondest good wishes Ralph

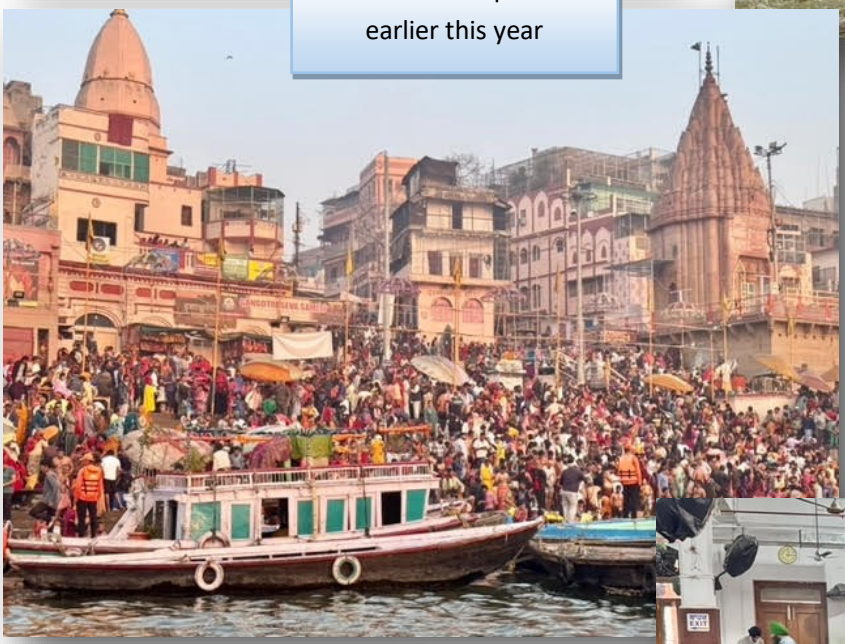
The response was great and it is so appreciated. I really mean this..*It is not about me...it's about you all.* It has (and still is) such a great pleasure to be friends with you all and this volume is a small way in which I can say thank you to everyone. Your friendship means everything to us both and despite me compiling these volumes I couldn't have done it without the help and encouragement of Lynn, my fantastic wife of over 61 years and we have never had a bad word..

(OK let me finish the sentence...we have never had a bad word in the last 10 minutes!)

Jeff and Janet are relatives by marriage of our great friends Ivor and Judy and over many years we have enjoyed their wonderful company

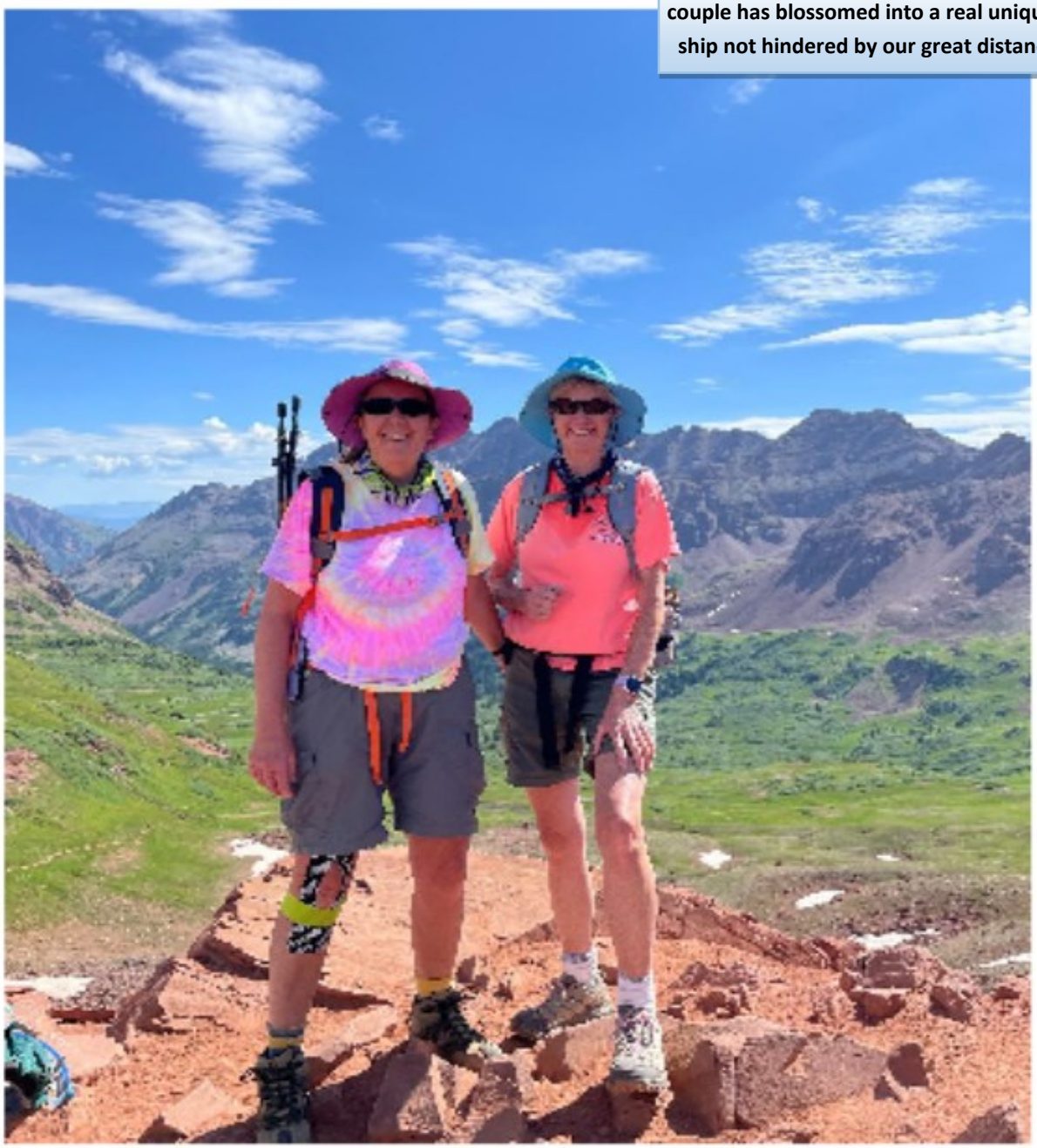
Jeff & Janet

Photos of our trip to India earlier this year



Cindy & Penny from Colorado

Our chance meeting with this extraordinary couple has blossomed into a real unique friendship not hindered by our great distance apart



Cindy and Penny from Colorado, at the top of West Maroon Pass between Crested Butte and Aspen. As retired educators, much of that in prisons, we are now happiest when we're moving so we hike and bicycle and travel the world. Last spring, walking the Cornish Coastal Path from St. Ives to Penzance, we met Ralph and Lynn on a bus. It is a measure of their charm and affability that, in that hour bus ride, we became instant friends. Those kinds of encounters renew our faith in the goodness of all humans. Here's to many more!

Gerry, one of 'The Lad's ' has walked with me over many years and we have exchanged tales and enjoyed the great company and very varied walks

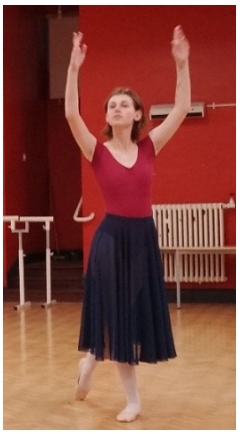
Gerry Weston

Dragana. In a garden in the centre of Rhodes, March 2025

Dragana's mother, Danitsa. First ever teacher in small village in Southern Serbia, 1931

Daughter, Jade during her 50 mile run from Worthing to Eastbourn – mad bugger!

And at the end



Granddaughter, Scarlett, at her ballet class.

Grandson, Nico, with boy of the season medals; massively keen goalkeeper

With Ryan Hack (26), youngest ever Mayor of Brent, at MapRA Gardens Open Day 2025

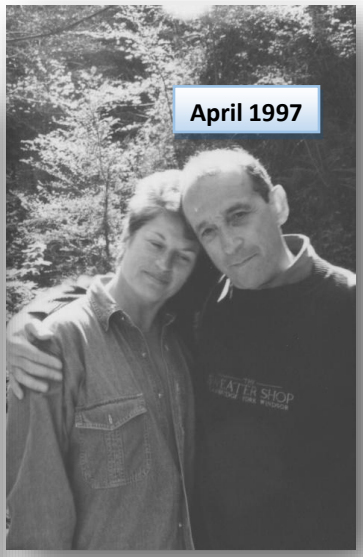
With Julius, Notting Hill Carnival 2018

Gerry Weston, Oct 2025

On island shores, where memories gleam,
A trip to the Isle, a waking dream.
With lovely friends, we took long walks,
Filled with laughter and happy talks.
Big breakfasts fueled our morning light,
Then down a hill, a joyful flight!
We rolled and tumbled, full of glee,
To find a lovely place for tea.
A wonderful time, never to be lost,
A perfect trip, no matter the cost.
Hope you are both well. Here is a poem about our wonderful time in the Isle of Wight.

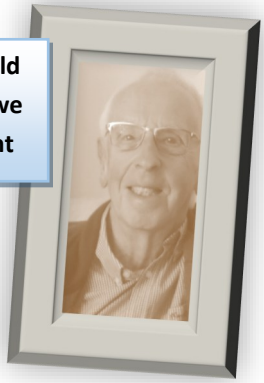
Not sure if his name inspired confidence

Martin & Maxine



MY LIFETIME by Stuart Rose

Friends you chose, family one has no choice about. However we would chose cousin Stuart any day. A real friend and over more years than we care to talk about, both in our catering careers and now in retirement



Eighty years have passed since
the first breath I gasped

Ah how the time has flown, a life, a blink now passed

A perfect baby, they all said, in my pram so fine

Just a dummy or a toy, and rarely cry or whine.

Cowboys and Indians in the park or spaceman with a gun

Just a kid at play, pure innocence and fun

Teenage comes, worries and spots, nature's changes made

And a Boy Scout tying knots, still shy and much afraid.

As I mature I find my feet, new friends have now been made

And now I roam the streets our rivals to evade

Chatting on corners just staring at the girls

Admiring those that came in view, their pigtails and their curls.

Fully grown, a man mature, a future now to seek

Too many drinks, too many girls and eight days in a week

I leave my nest, spread my wings, try all that's new around

With parents influence broken and now adventure bound

A few years pass, the time has come to settle and to plan

To woo and love and make a home, a new bride and her man

A career to make, to work and work, a future now to build

A marriage made in heaven, two people's hearts are sealed.

It wasn't long, as I recall when blessings came to stay

And babies always crying through long night and day

So much joy, so much fun with little time to sleep

To be a credit to our lives, what you sow you reap.

I'll never let my feelings show but now I shed a tear

To think what I have done, it all comes back so clear

If now I die I have no fear, I'll go with no regrets

Over such a long period Sue, with her late husband David and us have enjoyed so many meals, social occasions and shared so many experiences that we could fill this book let alone one page. This page is just one snapshot

SUE .E

June 2009...The BoatHouse , Leigh-On-Sea

'Pictures of us at Leigh on Sea

Late husband David, Lynn and me

With thanks to my friend, beloved Ralph Kley

Of memories so happy for all to see'

With love, dear Ralph, on the wonderful achievement of 200 editions. Xxx Sue

A few years ago Lynn and I planted an oak sapling in memory of David and last week we checked and it is thriving

Penny and Barry with Dan, their great son, have come into our lives relatively recently and become such dear friends. When we get together the time passes so quickly and we laugh and put the world to rights every time..

Penny & Barry

Thank you for inviting us to contribute to your 200th celebration edition book. When people meet and personalities and friendships are made and they happen - friendships are very precious things at any age! May our friendship last for many years. Love from us both

B & P

X X

Marion and I have a lifetime plus of memories because her mother and my father were schoolfriends and we continued this tradition with such happiness. Her contribution below says it so much better than I dare, so I won't attempt to add my feeble introduction..Here's to our friendship Marion

CL: The Chronicle of Friendship
CL — a century and half of chapters,

CC — two centuries of living chapters,

As life plays out with you, the actors

Each page an event, each line a year,

The print remembers all that time made dear.

LXXIX you and your folk came to Belsize Park

Where your quick wit always hit the mark

You kept me in constant fits of laughter

You and I, aged six and eight, now and I hope - forever after.

LXXIX Coronation day we spent together

Walking in Queen Mary's park in ghastly weather

And peering at the tiny 12 inch TV screen

With no idea what a coronation would mean

LXXIX — the count of years you've been my friend

Through ups and downs that life will send

Through happy days like darling Lynn's arrival in your life

You wise old bird quickly made her your wife

We have always enjoyed each other's company

Lynn and you and Antony and me.

LXXIX Remember our weekend in Wales

Admiring those historic narrow gauge rails

Picnic in a Ffestiniog field, you guys

So formally dressed, wearing slim Jim ties

And we girls in smart trouser suits

With trendy knee high boots.

The early days of your career in gastronomy

Working together for your economic autonomy

The two of you cooking in your tiny kitchen on weekends

When we were out enjoying ourselves with other friends.

CC We all prayed hard when teeny weeny Tammy was born,

but Phew!

The relief when we knew she would make it through!

CC Lynn and Ralph, you're such a great team and wonderful friends

You're always there for everyone, whatever fate sends

I love being with you, hearing your laughter, sharing your joy

and your sorrow

The Kley way is if there's a storm today, there'll be sunshine tomorrow,

(…and have another piece of cake, or some more roast hake…

you'll feel better…or have some more barbecued steak.)

And as the content of CC volumes of two lives can testify

Ralph - as a photographer you do have the most wonderful eye.

CC And now, when the golden glow of youth is past

I look back on our heartwarming friendship so steadfast

Through storms and pain, through change and calm

Your humanity and kindness have been the constant balm

Lynn and Ralph, you go together like the proverbial horse and cart

And I think our eight decade friendship in your story plays a part

Now fill volume CC with memories tender

We'll forgive if to sentimentality you occasionally surrender

But remember this: each chapter may end but love remains

It's true that ink and time may fade and bend,

But friendship — our friendship - has no end.

Love you both lots. This is for your 200 th volume. CC

Mxxxxxx

14 October 2025

Young Ronnie…yet another 'Lad' from the GWG. We walk and talk and sometimes find the rest of 'The Lads' are miles ahead', but what the hell, there's so much to talk about and Ronnie is such a great guy I love to hear all about his great work helping others..

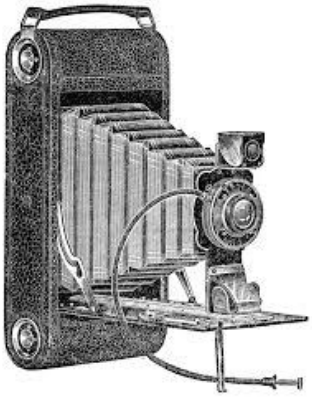
Ronnie E

For Ralph — On His 200th Celebration Edition

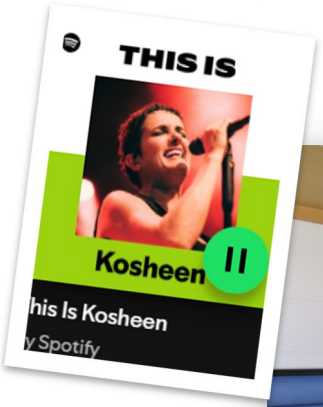
Congratulations, Ralph, on your 200th edition,
An octogenarian in amazing condition.
On walks you set a blistering pace
Just like the erstwhile hunt on Enfield Chase.

Once a fine caterer, inventor of a drink
Now it's the planet of which you think.
Planting trees, clearing waterways, nothing is too much
Apples, wild blackberries and sloe fruit
yield to your touch.

You relinquished the allotment so as not to get trapped
But still run and swim though often get lapped.
Keep going strong with your trusty camera lens
Filling your albums with family and friends.



Ronnie



We had the great pleasure of meeting Sian at Shindig, DP's festival and we immediately 'clicked' We stayed with her at her fantastic B&B (Dylan Thomas's original home in Wales) and met her at other Shindig festivals too. . She is a real star and still finds time to chat with us between tours.

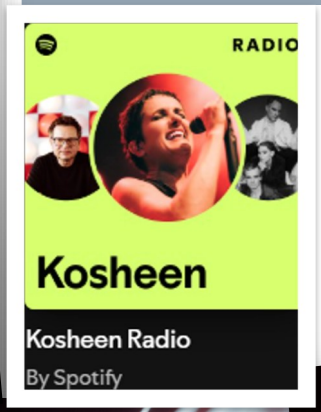
Sian

Lynn, Sian and DP at Shindig this year

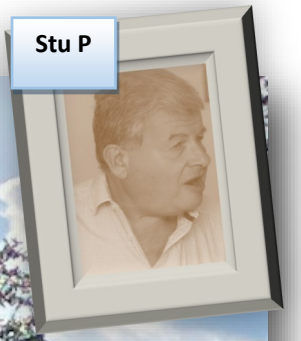
On tour this year

At Shindig

How wonderful Ralph x you are so special to me xx love to Lynne et al xx

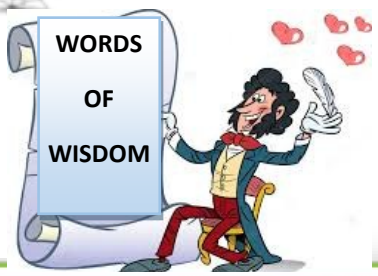


I introduced Stu to fellow walkers and he has taken to it like a duck to water. (Maybe a better phrase would be like a 'walker to Mud'.) As the photos show, Stu loves travel and together with Sue they hope to leave no area unexplored.

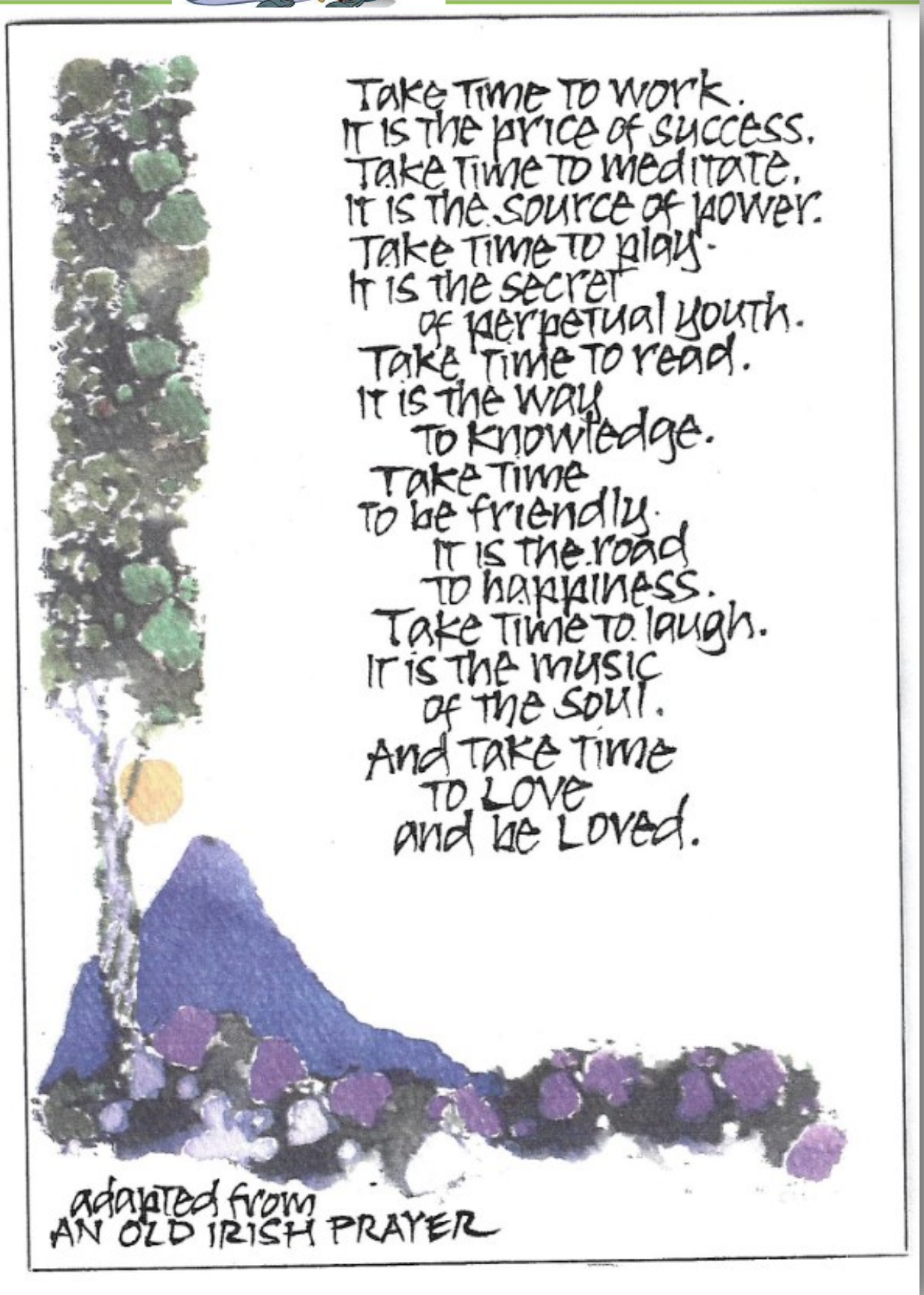


Of the 'big 5' mammals, leopards are the most rare and difficult to spot as they are usually solitary big cats hiding in the trees. It took my partner, Sue, several safaris to spot a single leopard.

So, imagine our amazement on my first safari when, after less than 1/2 hour leaving the airstrip, en route to our camp, we are treated to this very rare sighting of two leopard brothers.'

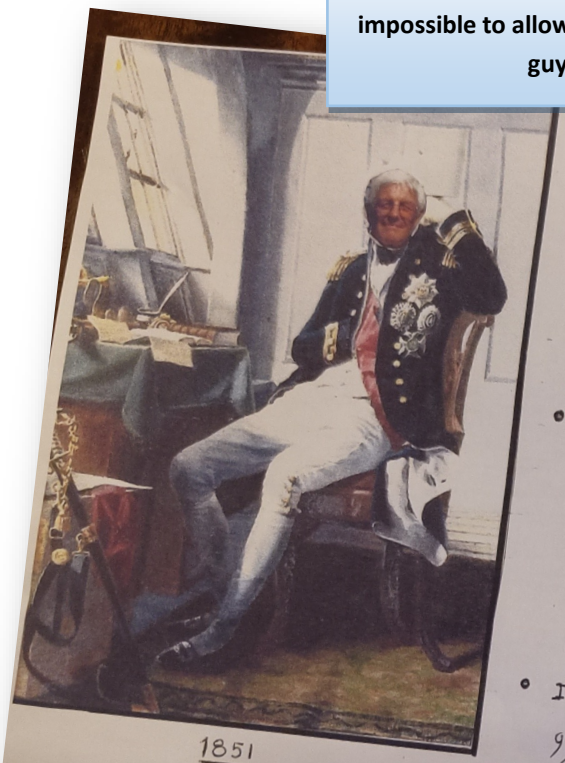


Sandra and I are fellow early morning swimmers and despite lane discipline we manage to converse daily and she has such a fascinating life and is now retiring to enjoy the next stage. Welcome young Sandra



Roy, another fellow early morning swimmer is known by everyone. A selfless guy with many a quip (some are even funny!) , but seriously , he has had such a varied life that it was impossible to allow him just one page. Roy, I am a lucky guy to have a friend like you.

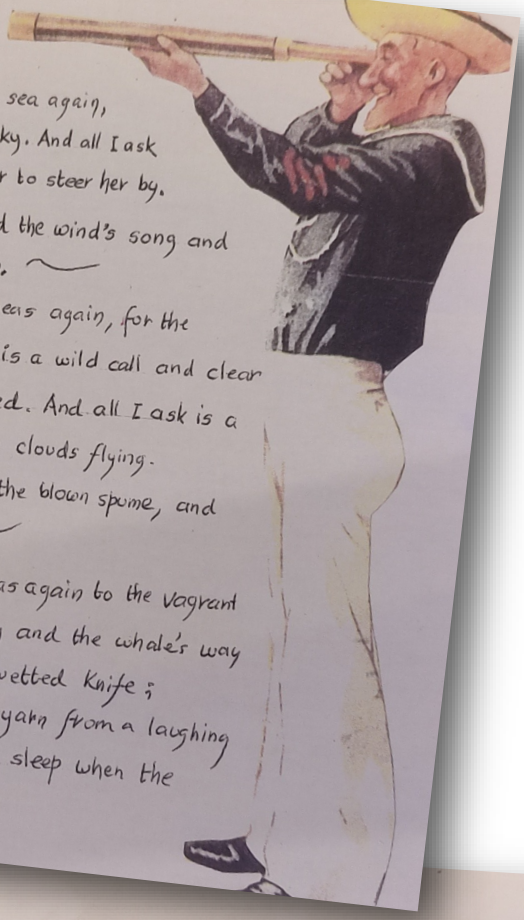
Roy#1



1851

~Sea-Fever~

- I must go down to the sea again,
the lonely sea and the sky. And all I ask
is a tall ship and a star to steer her by.
And the wheels kick and the wind's song and
the white sail's-shaking.
- I must go down to the seas again, for the
call of the running tide is a wild call and clear
call that may not be denied. And all I ask is a
windy day with the white clouds flying.
And the flung spray and the blown spume, and
the sea-gulls crying.
- I must go down to the seas again to the vagrant
gypsy life, to the gull's way and the whale's way
where the wind's like a wetted knife;
And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing
fellow-rover. And a quiet sleep when the
long tricks over.



Roy , in his fascinating life worked on this North Sea Platform in 1975

Chevron Ninian Southern
North Sea Oil Platform
1975

"12 Million Gallons of Crude Oil per day"

Roy landing on Chevron Ninian Southern Platform from Shetland Islands
1975

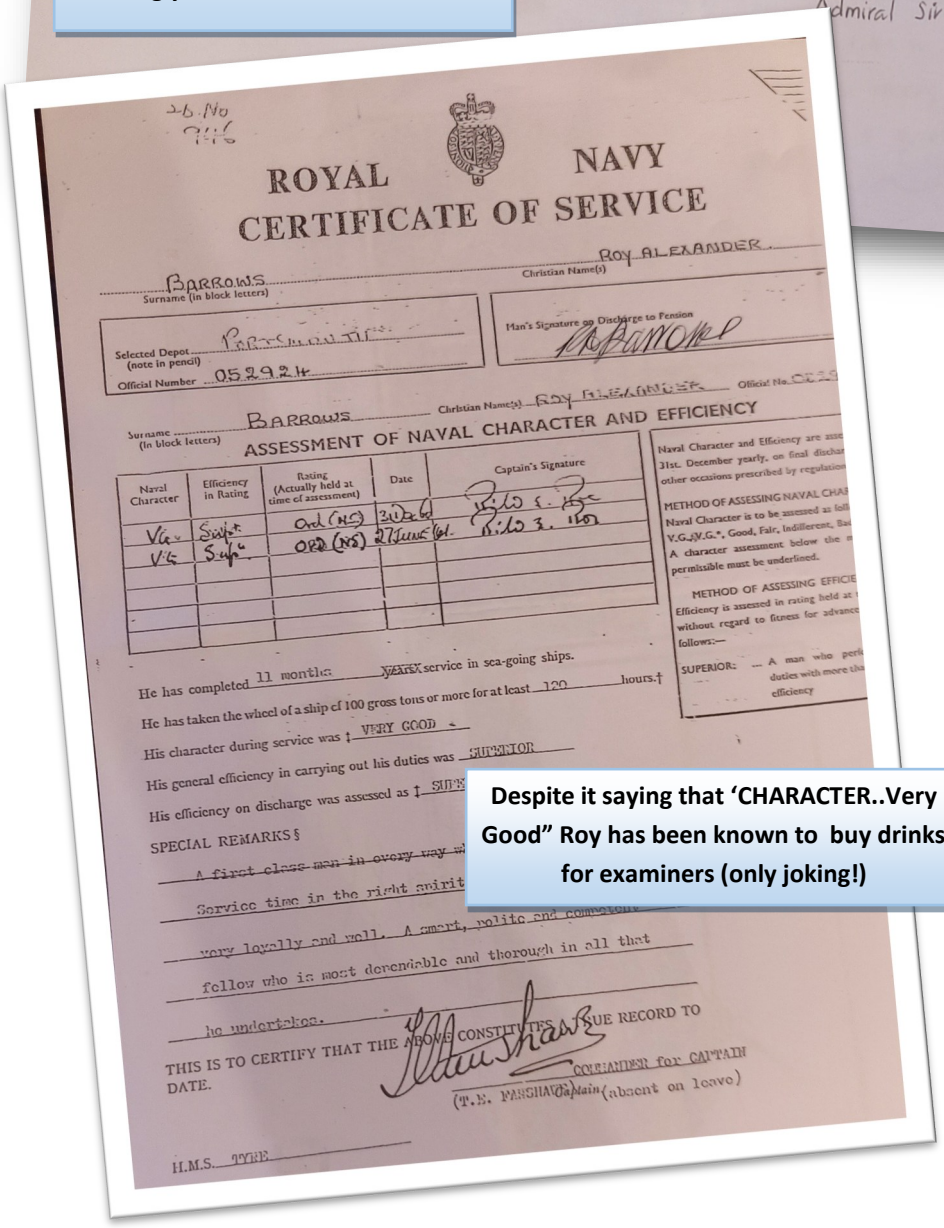
Roy#2

1951
Stoke Newington Sea Cadets
Roy on the barrel - aged 12

Roy , aged 12 , sitting on the barrel. Rumour has it that he is still in his advancing years never far from a barrel

1961
Admiral Sir Charles Madden inspects the crew
HMS TYNE
Royal Navy

Inspection on the HMS Tyne by Admiral Sir Charles Madden



ROYAL NAVY
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Surname (in block letters): BARROWS
Christian Name(s): ROY ALEXANDER
Selected Depot (note in pencil): PORTSMOUTH
Official Number: 052924
Man's Signature on Discharge to Pension: [signature]

Surname (in block letters): BARROWS
Christian Name(s): ROY ALEXANDER
Official No.: [illegible]

ASSESSMENT OF NAVAL CHARACTER AND EFFICIENCY

Naval Character	Efficiency in Rating	Rating (Actually held at time of assessment)	Date	Captain's Signature
V.G.	Supt.	Ord (NS)	31 Dec 60	[signature]
V.G.	Supt.	ORD (NS)	27 June 61	[signature]

Naval Character and Efficiency are asse... 31st. December yearly, on final dischar... other occasions prescribed by regulation...

METHOD OF ASSESSING NAVAL CHAR... Naval Character is to be assessed as foll... V.G.,V.G.*, Good, Fair, Indifferent, Ba... A character assessment below the ... permissible must be underlined.

METHOD OF ASSESSING EFFICIE... Efficiency is assessed in rating held at ... without regard to fitness for advance... follows:—

SUPERIOR: — A man who perf... duties with more tha... efficiency

He has completed 11 months ~~years~~ service in sea-going ships.

He has taken the wheel of a ship of 100 gross tons or more for at least 120 hours.†

His character during service was ‡ VERY GOOD

His general efficiency in carrying out his duties was SUPERIOR

His efficiency on discharge was assessed as ‡ SUPE...

SPECIAL REMARKS §

A first class man in every way w...

Service time in the right spirit...

very loyally and well. A smart, polite and competent

fellow who is most dependable and thorough in all that

he undertakes.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE CONSTITUTES A TRUE RECORD TO DATE.

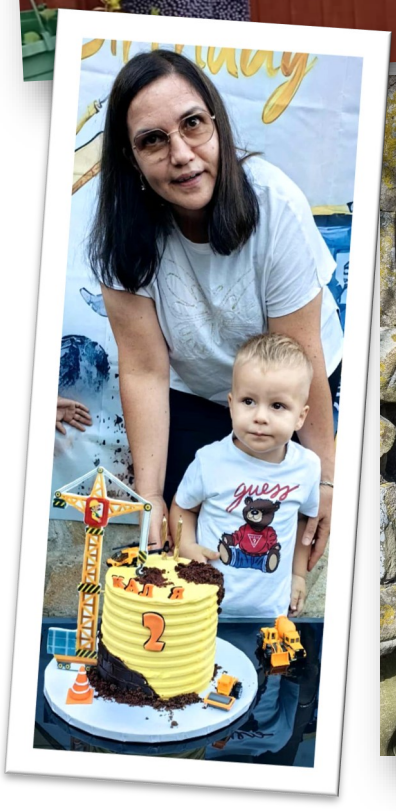
[signature] COMMANDER for CAPTAIN
(T.E. FANSHAWE) Captain (absent on leave)

H.M.S. TYNE

Despite it saying that 'CHARACTER..Very Good" Roy has been known to buy drinks for examiners (only joking!)

Roy, despite his terrible puns and jokes is one of the most obliging and cheerful fellows any of us know. It is a privilege to count Roy as a friend

Our lovely friend Vera with friends, family & Kaloyan her grandchild. She spoilt us when we visited her home in Bulgaria and we were made so welcome with her lovely family



We are family but Renana and Anh are such great friends too. It is such a pleasure seeing how they are growing as individuals and we know they will make a real mark on our world. (or even above this world...in space!)

Renana & Anh

"When we focus less on what makes us different and more on what we want to accomplish, the sky is not the limit." (Danny Olivas)

The world has so many beautiful things to offer - let's hope this coming year will be calmer than the last one, filled with moments of laughter, love and simple joys. May we spend more time surrounded by the people we care about, collecting more memories that make us smile!

Ralph & Lynn - see you soon - we'll be back :)

Anh & Renaná

HE AND ME

Neil and I seem two of the prolific walk planners for our friends but it seems to tire him out (because he regularly sleeps in the back of my car on the way back!)..sorry buddy!!

Ralph wants a poem about me not he.
Trouble is it's he not me who plants trees for Enfield,
It's he not me who takes school books across the world.
He not Me

It's he not me who swims at the crack of dawn,
It's he not me who is photographer extraordinaire.
He not Me

It's he not me who has assembled 200 albums illustrating his life,
It's he not me who cooks food to die for.
He not Me

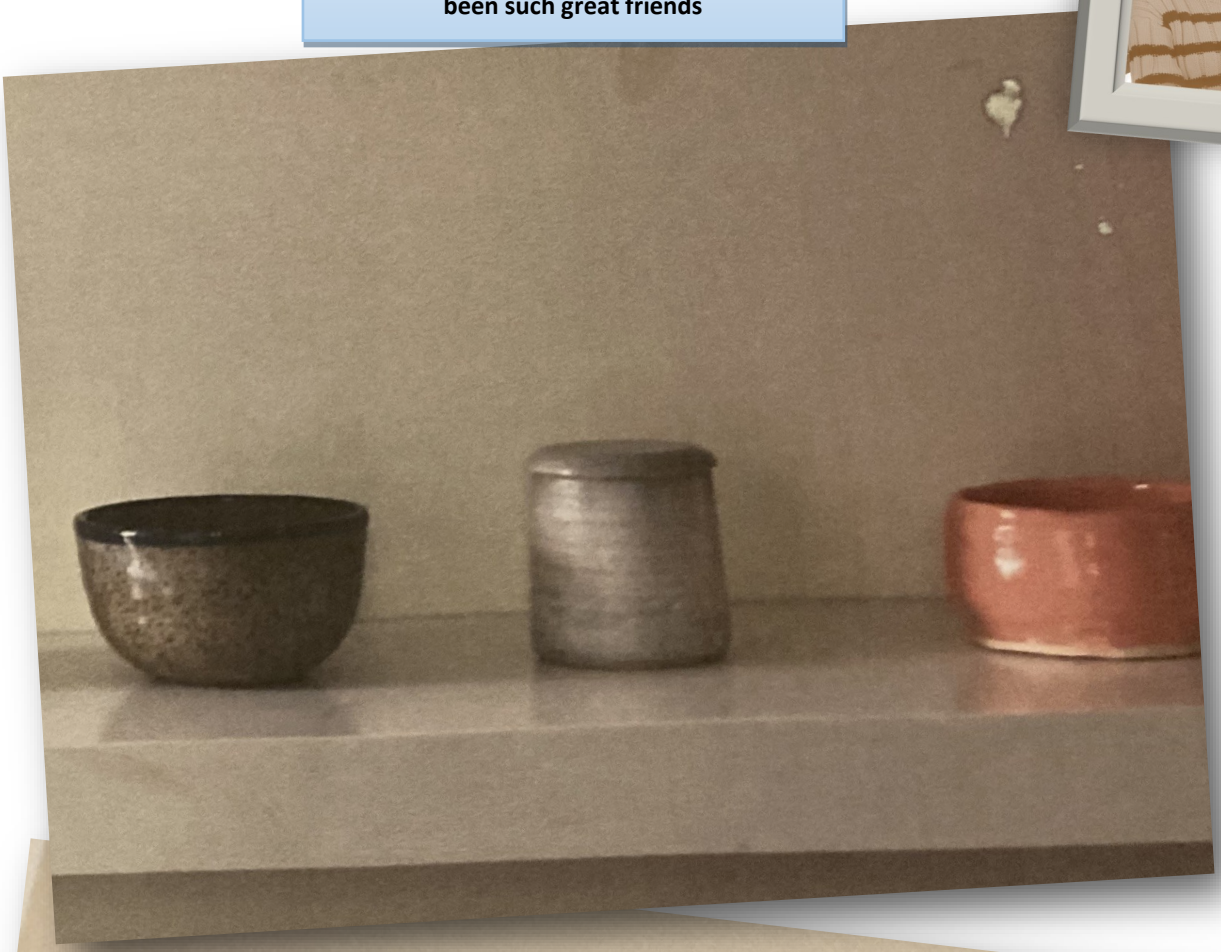
But happily he and me met at a gentlemen's walking group,
It's he and me who lead some walks,
It's he and me who enjoy the pub lunches,
And it's he and me who are now friends.

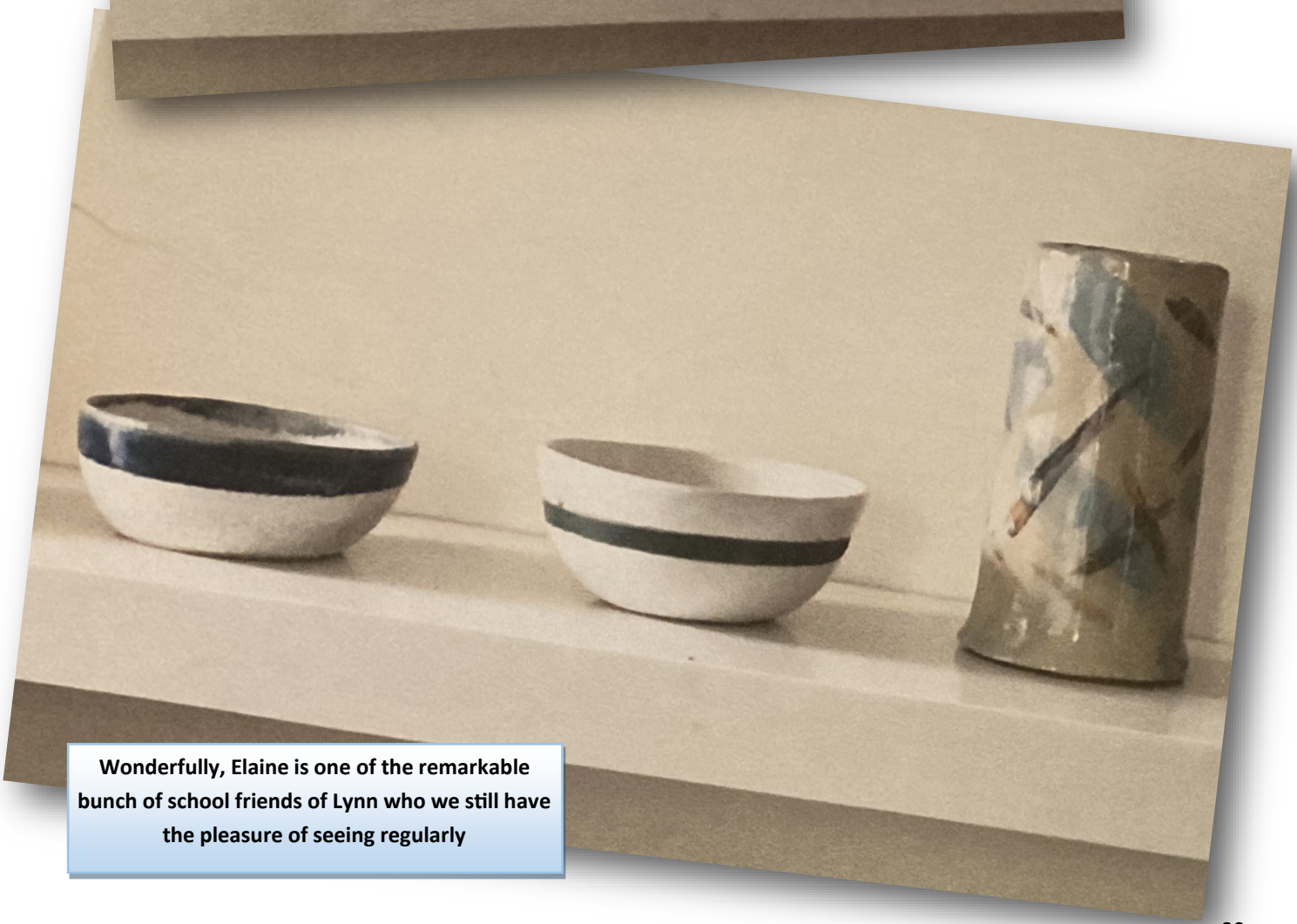
Best
Neil and Vivian

He and Me

Elaine, our dear friend (and schoolfriend of Lynn's) has a wonderful talent for pottery and these are some of her latest offerings. It is frightening to realise how long the girls have been such great friends

Elaine





Wonderfully, Elaine is one of the remarkable bunch of school friends of Lynn who we still have the pleasure of seeing regularly

Cheryl swims with us most days and always has her special smile for everyone. So great to have her as one 'of the gang'

Cheryl

Cheryl supports charitable causes, advocates for Animal and Wildlife protection, regularly feeds wildlife and advises others how to help wildlife around them so they too can enjoy the benefits of nature..

She also enjoys antiques, perfumery, books, interior design of property, travelling to other countries and loves cats.

I have been trying to get young Shanti to join us on The Park Run but the closest he came to it was walking the opposite way with his family one sunny day. I'll keep trying Shant!

Shanti and Vasanti

A collage of photos from a recent holiday in Kenya, and some are in Grovelands Park (locally). There is also the odd photo in Japan (October 2024)

Robbie is unwell and we take our hats off to our dear friends Robbie and Mickey who are extra special

Norman...a dear friend from what is laughingly known as the 'lads' walking group. The term 'lads' may now be a misnomer (indeed, was it ever true?) . A group of elderly gentlemen walk together on the last Friday of every month and Norman has been a stalwart from the very outset, years ago. During that time we have exchanged yarns and enjoyed both the very varied walks, and one another's company. So long may it continue

Norman

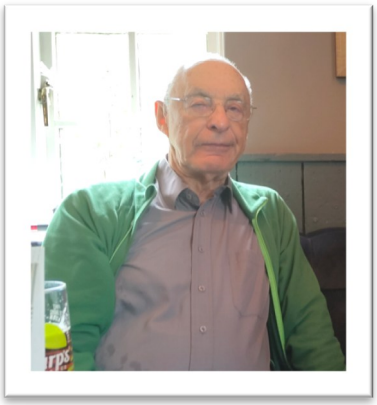
Oh Ralph what's to do?

Your motives so clear and true

You're full of life

With a loving wife

From that your aims just grew



The odd bit of mud doesn't daunt us

Dan I seem to be digging when we speak. We have become friends over the years planting around Southgate in the hope of 'beautifying' the area. An unenviable task. Rain gardens, pocket parks etc and Dan is always there speaking to the right people to get our work done. Dan sees the world in a special way and is a totally original specimen… as this quote confirms..

Dan M

• I've worn odd socks all my adult life; selecting colours that work together is the first design decision of the day

Dan thinks out of the box…maybe that's the attraction

Who else but Dan could Southgate turn to design , produce and install our fabulous original street crossing

Photographer - Chris Wood.

Described by Design Week as "an extraordinary mind", I've never been one to conform…

Hounslow West Station Passimeter

"Really great to have worked with Dan on the heritage ticket office kiosk at Hounslow West which she has transformed into a focal point with her amazing artwork. The level of detail and research she has undertaken to devise a uniquely relevant design for us is only surpassed by the stunning quality and impact of the finished product. It's been a real pleasure to work with her."

Nawal Didi

Area Manager Hatton Cross TfL / London Underground

I was one of those children who was always making things and to be honest, I've never stopped!

Southgate Art Crossing

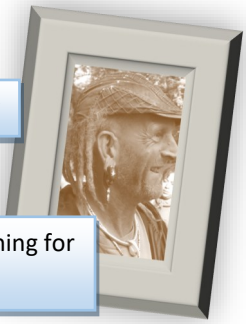
'Dan's artwork for the Southgate crossing lights up the town centre with joyful colour. The piece brought delight to the local community during a difficult time mid-pandemic, and continues to give happiness to passers-by on a daily basis. We cannot thank Dan enough for her beautiful work and are proud to have her living and working in Enfield."

Rebekah Polding

Head of Cultural Services, Enfield Council

Our great son DP (AKA 'Fluffy'), is totally 'one in a million. And we have such a fantastic bond.

Fluffy



I am now being encouraged by my inspiring and wonderful father to get my finger out and offer up something for book no 200 - (lets just quickly all take a moment to acknowledge this incredible achievement).

For those that do not know me , I have lived a very unconventional life which has taken me all over the world . I have met people from every walk of life . I have worked in refugee camps, met world leaders , have friendships with world famous pop stars and mega tycoons of industry, lived for months on end with indigenous tribal leaders and wisdom keepers from many different lands and traditional cultures . I am fiercely proud of my Jewish roots and my life has been effected by generational trauma from the horrors of the Holocaust ..with the seemingly increasing dark times we are in now. I think back to how people could have sat back and at the very least turned a blind eye or worse took part in the genocide of the nazi Holocaust. As it did it did in the nazi holocaust " … the only way this could have been possible was through the clever use of propaganda . The definition of propaganda is very interesting -information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a particular cause, doctrine, point of view., political or ideological agenda. It works by influencing public opinion, often by exaggerating facts, completely lying even, using emotionally charged language, or leaving out important information to persuade people to think or act in a certain way. In the case of the nazis in the 1940's they managed to use propaganda to secure the acquiescence of millions —as bystanders —to racially targeted persecution and mass murder. Propaganda is such a powerful tool that it can make a freedom fighter into a terrorist and vis versa . As it did it did in the nazi holocaust

Today in the uk I am watching the rise of fascism once again and its rather terrifying with the likes of Elon Musk whipping up our poor and hard working masses to turn on immigrants and violently expel or detain them .. in America its already out of control in many states with Trump empowering a Gestapo like force called ICE to act indiscriminately against immigrants … where not nana and papa immigrants in the uk …. History is seeming to repeat its self as well as twisting up in more perverse and complicated way . To summarise … treating all life as precious , have love at the base of everything we do and move forward seeing all humans as equal ……..Happy 200 book dad I love you and love to all my family in all parts of the world- may wisdom and peace

Great little festival, amazing music, the most friendly crowd in a beautiful setting ....we danced all weekend ...Well done Shindig!

Kerry Lacey

What Fluffy did not mention is that every year his amazing festival 'Shindig' is incredibly popular and attracts families from around the world

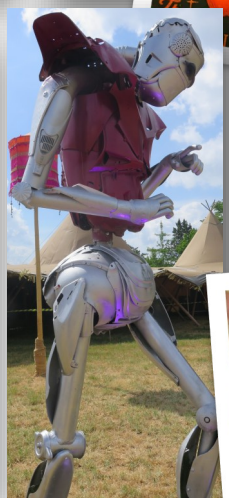


Photo History

Peachy with Ottie & Beau in Rockaway

Rockaway is a wonderful and zany place where we all love and celebrate together with a veggie banquet

Even the dog enjoys the impromptu bubble shower

Gill W

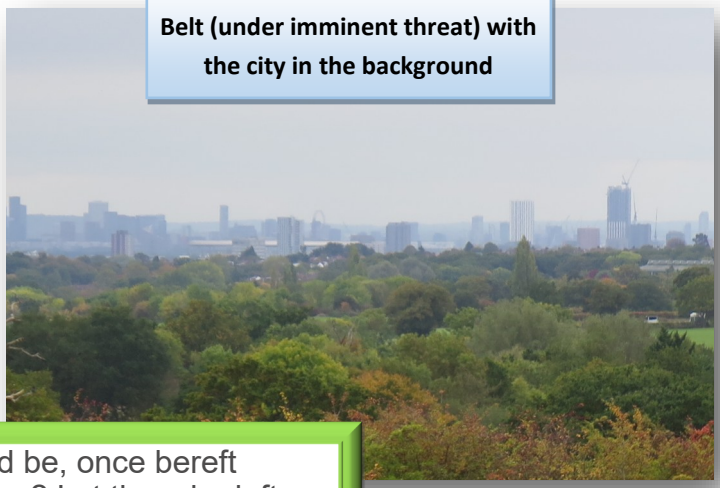
Us daily swimmers were delighted that Gill was able to join us regularly for our (very) early morning swims every day and we pass the time of day as we pass one another swimming gracefully(???) in the slow lane

I'm a Retiree-in-Training after a lifetime in education, latterly as a School Librarian for 18 years. I haven't yet fully settled in to life without work but am determined not to be what my ex-colleagues assumed I would be become: a "lady of leisure". I'm making the most of my Freedom Pass to explore the parts of the best city in the world - London - which I haven't yet seen and am loving the free lunchtime concerts, the museums and galleries, matinees... I've got a new sewing machine and, as the last thing I made 40+ years ago was my wedding dress, have decided to get sewing again. it's great to be able to put aside time to read grownup novels (after so many years of children's and young adult books) and special to be able to relax in the garden to do so. And, as I became a Granny for the first time on 18th October this year, many hours will be dedicated to watching Ada grow up.

As literature and nature play such a huge part in my life, here's a verse from one of my favourite poems, "Inversnaid" by Gerard Manley Hopkins: (1881)

This seemed an apt graphic with an open book and the countryside

Last week..our wonderful Green Belt (under imminent threat) with the city in the background



What would the world be, once bereft
Of wet and of wildness? Let them be left,
O let them be left, wildness and wet;
Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet.

Some old folk enjoying the new nature path through Enfield Chase

Holly & Ky marveling at the size of the hidden giant oaks

Fellow lovers of travel and friends for so many years means we have so much in common and so much to talk about when ever we meet.

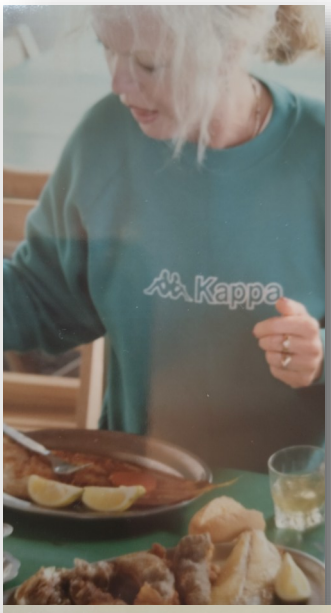
For Ralph – In Celebration of the 200th Volume of his Photo History

What a remarkable achievement – over 80 years of travelling, photographing, feeding, planting, growing, nurturing and generally doing everything you can to make the world a better place.

You and Lynn keep enjoying life and making the most of every occasion. We are so grateful that you are still enjoying the great outdoors and being good friends whom we can still walk with. together

While we all still have good health and energy to do all the things we do may we still enjoy our travels to distant places – have adventures and experience new cultures and life styles and share those memories. As long as the travel insurance allows!

May this 200th volume be filled with friends, family and places and build more new memories. Here's to almost 65 years of friendship. With love Judy & Gordon



We have known Jenny and Ronnie for all our married lives and the kids virtually grew up together. We spent holidays and weekends with them and had great fun. Ronnie and I with other great friends went regularly to Porchester Hall Turkish Baths followed by a slap-up Indian meal, taking our long-suffering wives a tandoori chicken and Naan bread by way of an apology

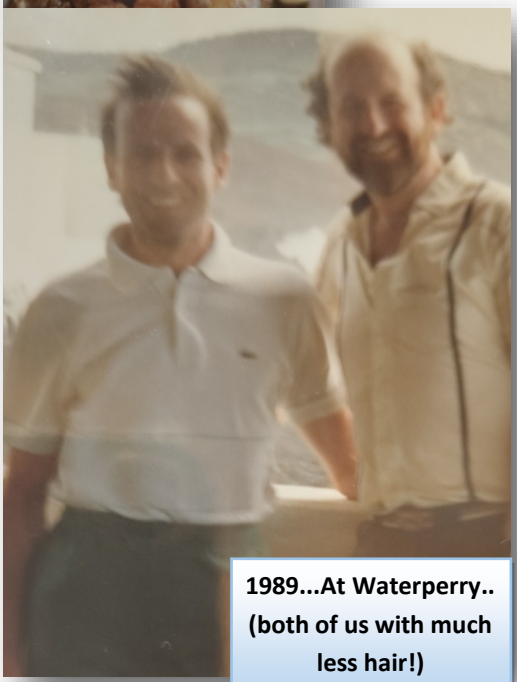
Jenny & Ronnie

Ronnie giving a welcome speech

1970 gourmet evening

Ralph (with hair)

Jenny



1989...At Waterperry.. (both of us with much less hair!)

More recently

Charity run in Regents Park in 1986 DP came in 2nd

1990 At their holiday home in Lanzarote

Our Saturday mornings ...after The Park Run ('Park Walk' in my case) we have the added delight of meeting with Raquel & Martin for coffee and cakes locally. The gathering of many friends has become such an enjoyable weekly ritual which we all look forward to

In twenty twenty-five we run,
Beneath the early morning sun,
Where laughter drifts through dew and cheer,
Parkrun time, our friends are near.

Ralph and Lynn, with varying pace,
Smiles of joy upon each face,
Martin and Raquel, walk and run
Enjoying together, so much fun.

Afterwards, with hearts alight,
Coffee meetings feel just right,
Laughs and stories intertwine,
At Coffee Island, we rest, recline.

With Ralph and Lynn we share,
Moments sweet beyond compare,
Good food, good talk, the hours glide,
Happy times, with friends beside.

So here's to friendship, year by year,
To every smile, to every cheer,
Our little world, so bright, so true,
Made golden by the joy of you.

Geald (in red) leads many of our walks and we have been friends for ever. Margeret and Gerald have the most wonderful garden lovingly tended and even open for charities every year. A really wonderful couple and they travel to such fascinating places. Gerald is my 'go to' guy when needing gardening and walk information.

Gerald & Margaret

A well rooted couple

Lily and John are inspirational. With John working so hard and Lily driving miles to 'baby sit' and then working so hard volunteering. Wonderful friends.

Lily & John#1

f my memory serves me well, I first met Ralph around spring/summer 2022 and then lovely ☺ Lynn too.. A great couple, very dynamic characters, charismatic, generous and very welcoming. A privilege to know them.

It all began with Friends of Enfield Chase - tree planting sessions always with a lovely smile. We both got involved in trying to start up a website for FoEC (Ralph been a very very keen photographer) and then soon enough in October, got involved on a

A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.

Our beautiful Alison created FoEC logo and provided wildflower seed packets for everyone

Our first Xmas get-together .

In memory of Alison.

Fun with volunteers, weeding, planting, mulching, surveying, guard removing and more!

How could we leave out these photos...so Lily & John please enjoy your two pages!!

Lily & John #2

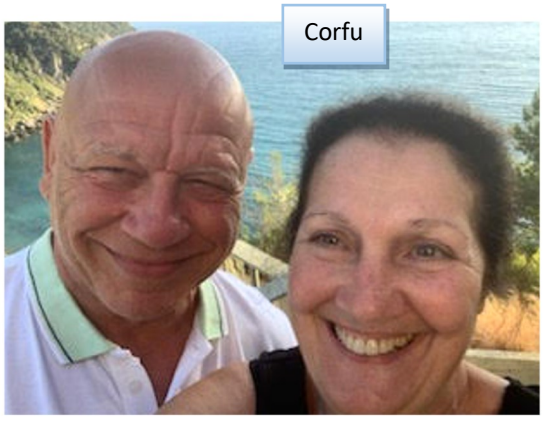
Best party ever! 80 years young!

Even the grand children got involved , Ioan and Lily -our future generation.

To me, fair friend, you never can be old (Sonnet 104 William Shakespeare)

These two pages say it all. Lily and I are such great friends and over the years our work on the Enfield Chase planting trees has meant so much to us both. Lynn and John are so supportive and this makes it all really special

Rhodes



Corfu

Yes, it's true, After over 11 years I am giving up my allotment and on my meeting the cheerful and wonderful gardener , Tobs there (when novice Ralph arrived with his shiny new garden tools), we immediately became great friends. Out of the blue

Paul & Wendy#1

Tobs asked me "What do you put on your rhubarb?" I thought he was challenging my culinary skills so I replied " usually custard made with Devon cream" He laughed. How was I to know that Tobs was the provider of matured horse manure for all the allotmenteers.

Ralph & Lynn

You may have relinquished your allotment but we can say categorically that you haven't lost the plot.

It's been such fun leading you astray to pantomimes and prison, and embracing your attempts to 'improve' us with trips to Chichester, planting trees in soggy soil and (most successfully) expanding our waistlines with your hospitality.

Knowing your legendary trigger happiness you've probably got more pictures of us than we have of ourselves, so we invite you to illustrate this text however you think fit. (Please be gentle…) Wendy & Tobbs xx

Wendy and Lynn

Tobs and Wendy finding the muddiest paths at High Beech, Epping in April'24

At the rudest pantomime in London…"Oh no it's not"…"oh yes it is!

View from the expensive seats at the Ska Ukulele Group at Hilly Fields in July '25

Waiting for a bus after a long walk

Tobs showing the grandchildren his novel way of keeping 'ahead' of the competition in growing extra large lettuces

Paul & Wendy#1

Cristina and Tobs (looking a bit worried) with that 80 year-old scarecrow placing his arm round his beloved Wendy